1   What is claimed is:

2   1.   A hybrid interpolation method comprising:

3   a simple interpolation algorithm;

4   a complex interpolation algorithm that requires a larger number of operations but

5   provides a better performance than said simple interpolation algorithm;

6   prediction means that predicts an appropriate interpolation algorithm, which provides a

7   high quality image with a minimum processing time, for a new pixel to be interpolated;

8   and

9   performing means that chooses either said simple interpolation or said complex

10   interpolation according to said prediction means and performs interpolation for said new

11   pixel.

12   2.   A hybrid interpolation method comprising:

13   a plurality of interpolation algorithms that vary in complexity and performance;

14   prediction means that predicts an appropriate interpolation algorithm, which provides a

15   high quality image with a minimum processing time, for a new pixel to be interpolated;

16   and

17   performing means that chooses one of said plurality of interpolation algorithms

18   according to said prediction means and performs interpolation for said new pixel.

19   3.   A hybrid interpolation method comprising:

20   a plurality of interpolation algorithms that vary in complexity and performance;

21   a plurality of prediction means that predict an appropriate interpolation algorithm, which

22   provides a high quality image with a minimum processing time, for a new pixel to be

23   interpolated; and

1   performing means that chooses one of said plurality of interpolation algorithms

2   according to said plurality of prediction means and performs interpolation for said new

3   pixel.

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